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Mr. K. R. Karant :—" Are the instructions of Government to distribute quinine free as a preventive or only as a curative ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" I do not quite understand the suggestion of the hon. Member. If he wants that quinine ought to be distributed free to every man so as to prevent people catching malaria, that would be preventive distribution. In places where there is malaria, people are also entitled to get a free distribution as a preventive measure also."

Mr. H. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister whether he has ordered stopping the distribution of quinine in places where the malarial season is over ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The Government have not issued any such instructions. But I am sure when the malarial season is over nobody would ask for quinine and nobody would issue it."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Has any budget provision been made for anti-malarial operations ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Yes."

Acquisition of site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut.

* 1598 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : With reference to question No. 510 answered on 11th October 1928 regarding the acquisition of site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what action Government have taken on the report of the Committee as to the acquisition of site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut ?

A.—The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I ask whether the Government have decided to give up the idea of acquiring the Mission site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut ? "

The hon Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" It is too early to answer that question."

Registration

Supply of Registration Gazette to Members of the Legislative Council.

* 1599 Q.—Mr. K. R. Karant : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the *Registration Gazette* is not supplied to the Members of this Council even if they ask for it ; and

(b) if so, for what reasons ?

A.—(a) & (b) The *Registration Gazette* is intended for circulation among the officers of the department and is not given to anybody else.

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" May I know whether the cost of this *Registration Gazette* comes from public funds or only from the officers of the department ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" From public funds."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" Then may I ask whether it contains any confidential information so that it should not be supplied to the hon. Members ? "

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The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Not that it contains any confidential information which could not be seen by hon. Members. Such departmental publications are not generally distributed to the public."

Mr. C V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Are not the members of this House entitled to get any copy of any Government publication ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Not all Government publications."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I appeal to you, Mr. President. Under the instructions given to us we are entitled to get copies of all local Government publications."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question may be raised at the end of question-time."

Number of clerks and their work in the Registration offices.

* 1600 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to question No. 504 answered on 10th October 1928 regarding the number of clerks and their work in the Registration offices in the Presidency, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place before the Council the report called for and the action taken or contemplated to be taken thereon ?

A.—Answers to the several clauses of question No. 504 are appended. [a] The question whether the clerical establishment of the Registration Department requires to be strengthened permanently and if so, to what extent, has already been under the consideration of Government separately.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether the hon. the Minister's attention has not been drawn to the reports of the Registrars of various districts in which it is stated that most of the offices are undermanned and overworked and that work had to be done on Sundays and other holidays ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I think on a former occasion I answered a question of the hon. Member that wherever there was overwork, the District Registrars were authorized to employ temporary staff and that in places where it was a permanent feature the question of strengthening the staff had been considered."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" My question is whether the attention of the hon. the Minister has been drawn to the reports of the several Registrars that their staff are undermanned and overworked ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Probably that is the reason why the Inspector-General of Registration has suggested the revision of the staff of registration offices."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister is aware that in some of these offices Indian Christian clerks are compelled to work even on Sundays."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am not aware of it."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Will he make enquires ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If the hon. Member will kindly give details or some instances like that I can enquire."

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 357–358 infra.